

EIS on Previously Issued Oil and Gas Leases on the White River National Forest

Draft EIS public meetings

December 2015

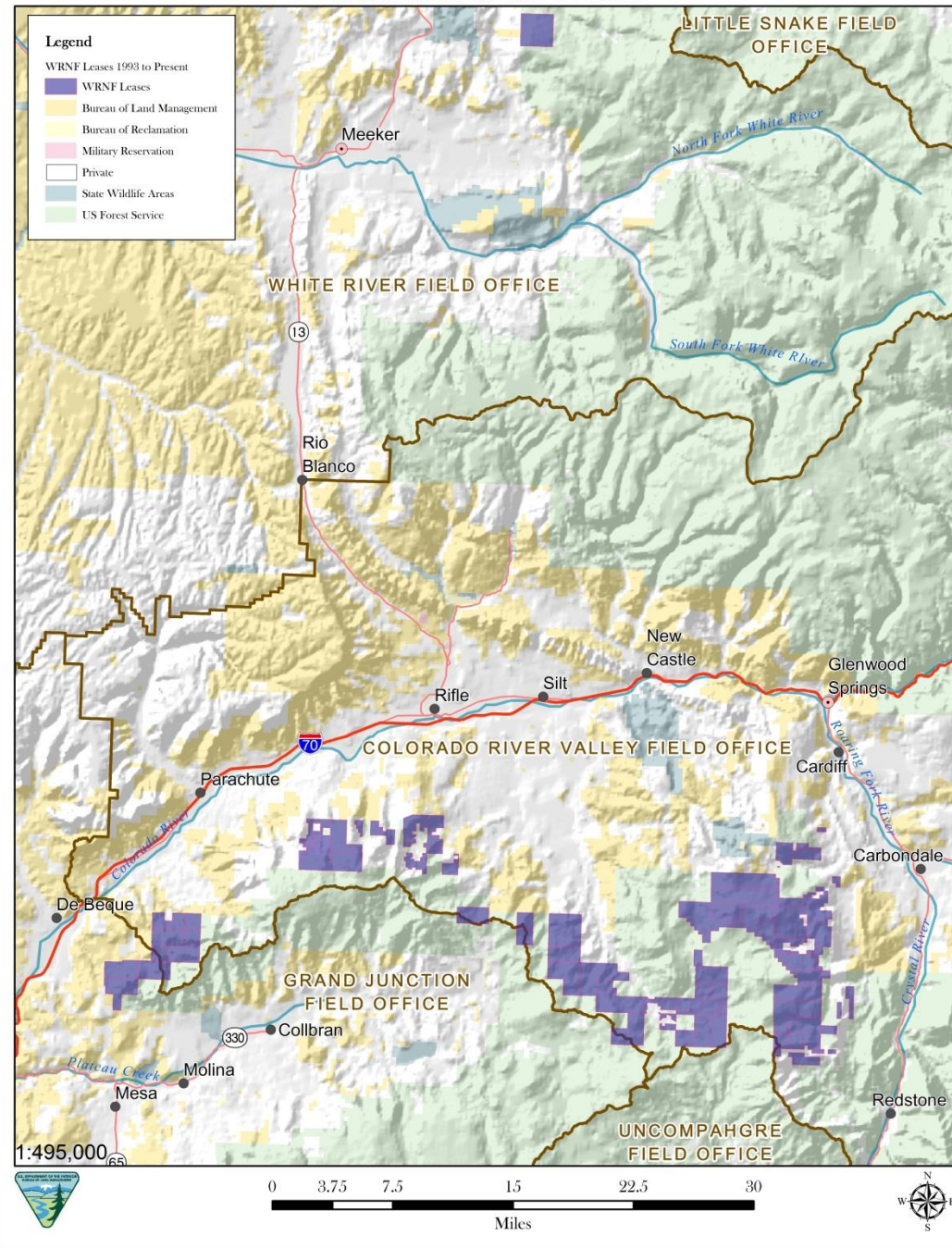
Remainder of meeting

- 10 minutes – presentation
- 20 minutes – Q&A
- 45 minutes – oral comments
- 10 minutes – break
- 45 minutes – oral comments

What we are doing

- EIS analyzing 65 existing leases issued since 1993 on the White River National Forest
- Draft EIS available for public comment
- Final result will be a Record of Decision based largely on the analysis in the EIS
 - Keep leases as they currently are
 - Modify existing leases
 - Cancel existing leases

Current Oil and Gas Leases Issued in the White River National Forest from 1993 to the Present



Separate Process and EIS from USFS

- Forest Service announced final decision on *future* oil and gas leasing in the White River National Forest Dec. 3
- BLM EIS looks only at 65 *existing* oil and gas leases

Why is BLM conducting the EIS?

- Forest Service determines which of its lands are available for oil and gas leasing (BLM manages the leases)
- Forest Service 1993 EIS made lands available
 - Decisions carried forward in 2002 Forest Plan
 - Most leased '95-2004
- 2007 IBLA decision
 - BLM did not formally adopt Forest Service analysis or do our own

Schedule/EIS Process

- Scoping period, ID issues – Spring 2014
- Public comment on Draft EIS, alternatives, analysis, information – Now
- Final EIS – Summer 2016
- Decision, based largely on EIS analysis – Late Summer/Fall 2016

Scoping period, spring 2014

- Sought to identify issues to address in the EIS
- More than 32,000 written submissions
- Four public meetings attended by nearly 800
- Nearly 200 oral commenters at meetings

Scoping Summary

- Comments used to help craft alternatives
- A number of specific issues raised
 - Process
 - Socio-economics
 - Water Resources
 - Alternatives
 - Wildlife
 - Air quality

Commenting on Draft EIS

- Written comments through Jan. 8
- Oral comments tonight
- Staff available tonight to answer questions
- More specific comments will be more effective.
Decision based largely on what's in the EIS.

Five Alternatives

- Alt 1 No Action, no changes
- Alt 2, Modifies 8 existing leases to address inconsistencies
- Alt 3, Modifies stipulations on 65 leases to match USFS EIS alternative for future leasing
- Alt 4, Cancels all or parts of 25 existing leases, same as Alt 3 for other 40. Mirrors USFS final decision for future leasing
- Alt 5, Cancels all 65 leases

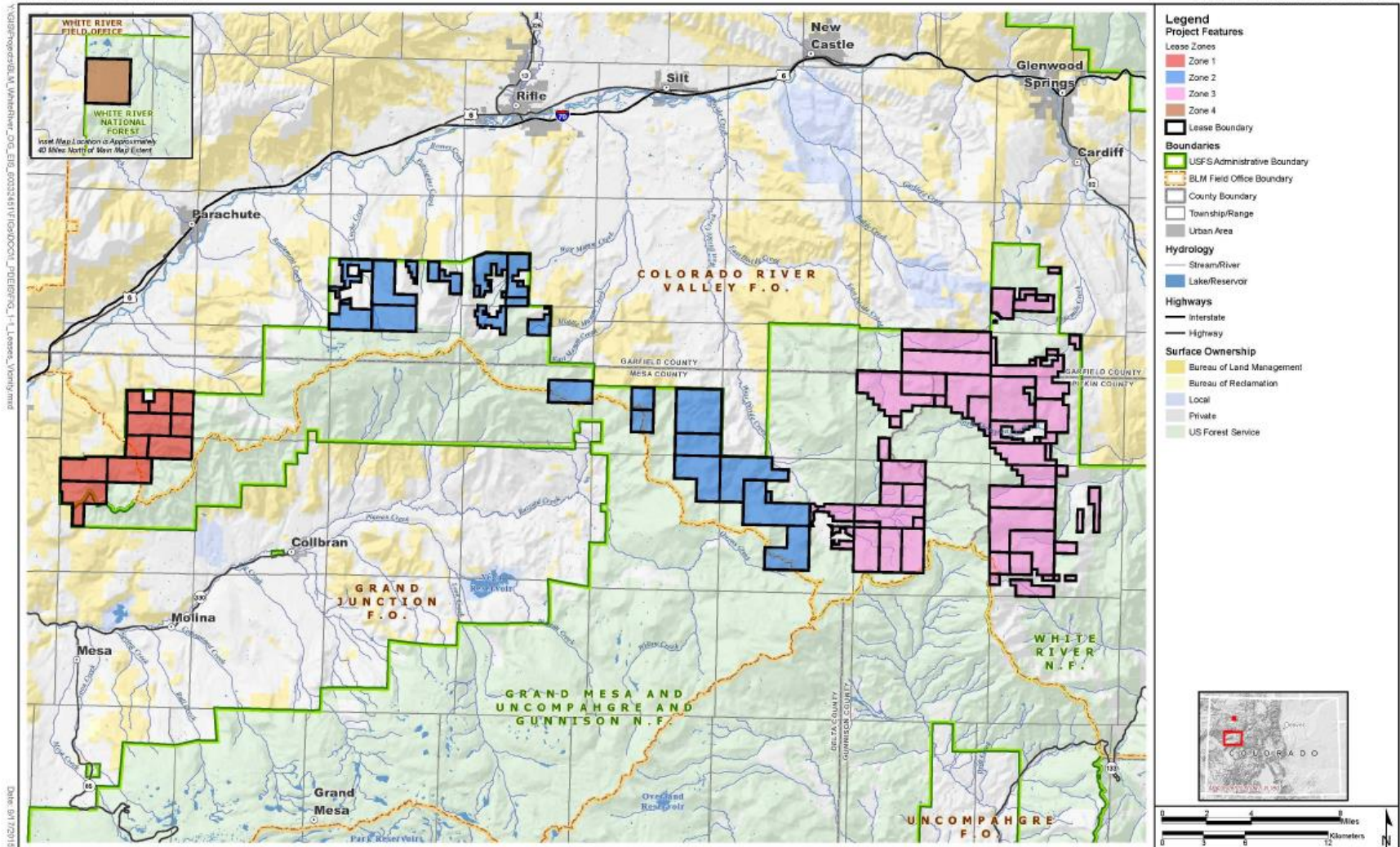
Alternatives

- Preferred Alternative will be selected after public comment period
- Preferred Alternative may be any alternative, combination of alternative, or something within the range

Draft EIS Development Zones

ES for Previously Issued Oil and Gas
Leases in the White River National Forest

Chapter 1.0 – Background; Purpose and Need



What this EIS does not address

- ***Future leasing.***
 - White River National Forest issued final decision Dec. 3
- **Drilling/development proposals.**
 - Forest Service would take lead on drilling proposals, including specific routes, locations
 - Forest Service waiting for results of BLM EIS

What EIS does not address

- Policy decisions outside scope of this EIS
- Leases issued before 1993

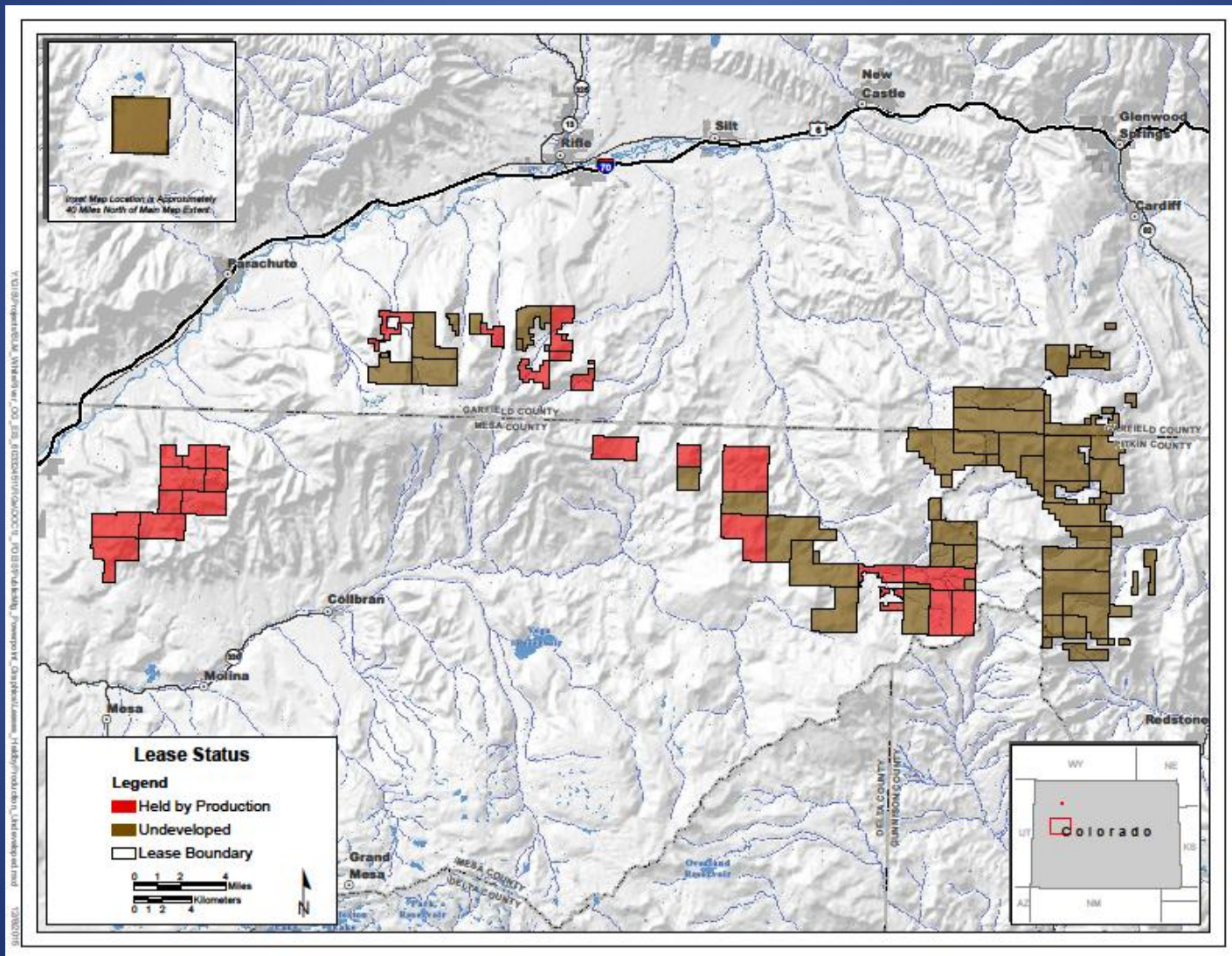
Common questions

- How important are public comments?
- How important are local comments?

Common questions

- Do you have the authority to cancel leases?
- Do we have the authority to cancel lease producing or held by production?

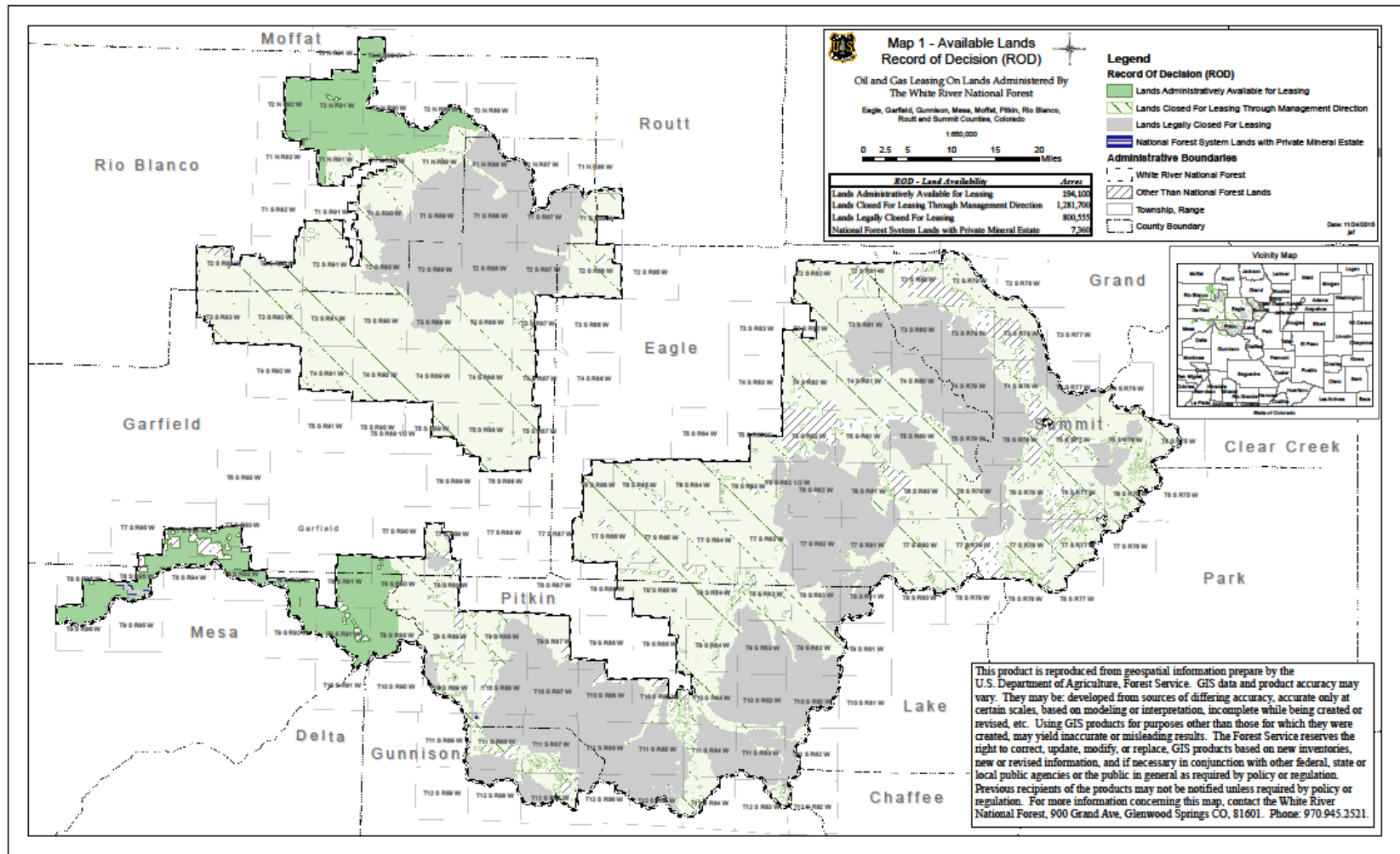
Producing Leases



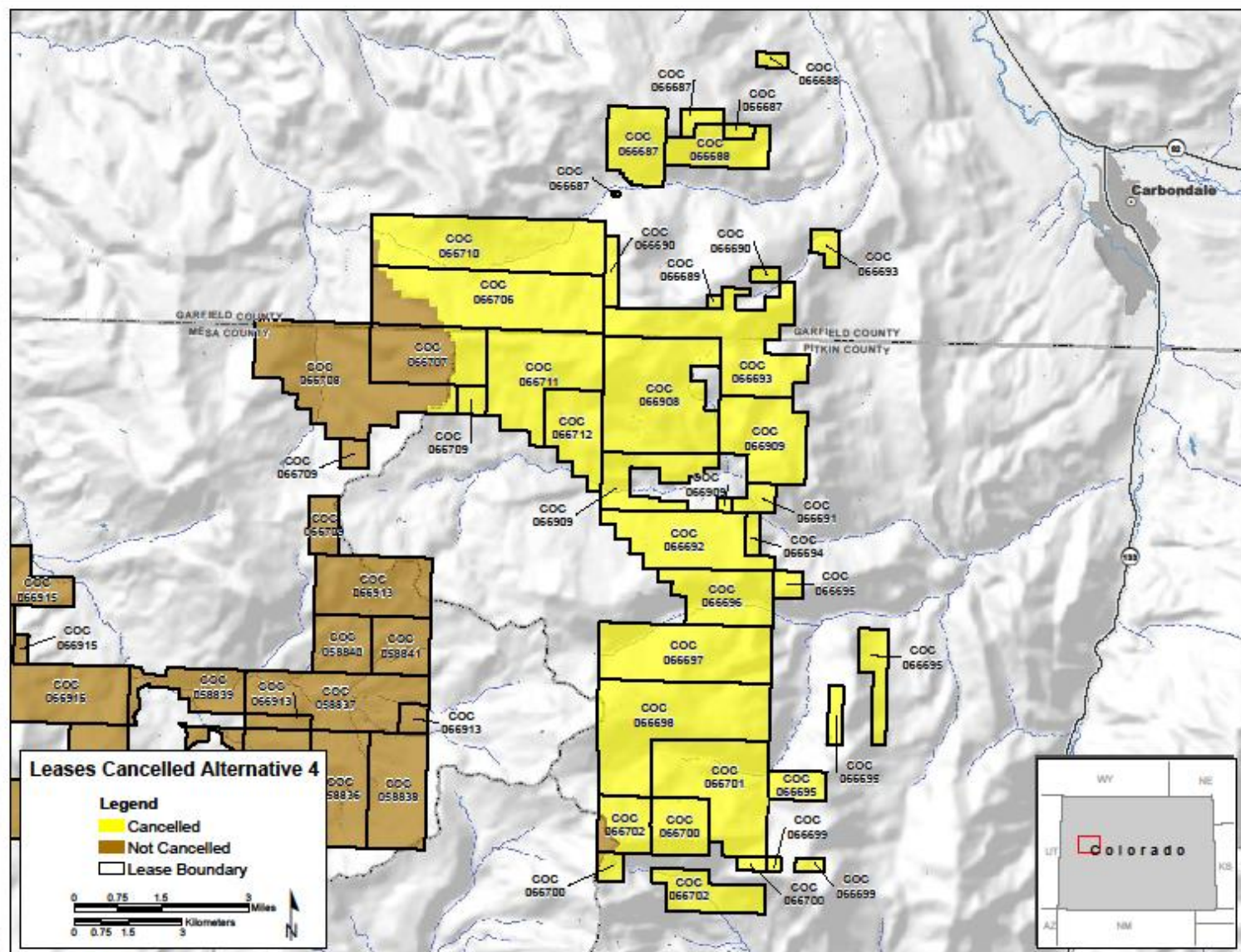
How did BLM incorporate Forest Service decisions for future leasing?

- BLM EIS used as much of the Forest Service analysis as possible
- Alternative 3 reflects changes to stipulations on all 65 leases
- Alternative 4 reflects changes to stipulations and open/closed areas

Forest Service Decision: Future Leasing



Alternative 4



How are current development proposals being handled?

- Forest Service has the lead; waiting for this EIS to be resolved.
- Notice of staking in Wolf Creek Storage Area
 - Lease pre-1993, not one of the 65.
 - Next step is leaseholder submitting APD

Common questions

- What about potential legislation and/or lease swap proposals?
- What do the development projections mean?

Transportation/Haul routes

- Projections for analysis – no decisions
- If Four Mile/300 Road were used:

	Maximum Annual Round Trips, Development	Maximum Total Round Trips, Development (20 years)	Average Daily Trips, Operations and Maintenance	Total Annual Trips, Operations and Maintenance
Alternatives 1, 2, 3	479	9,572	146	53,290
Alternative 4	73	1,456	22	8,030
Alternative 5	0	0	0	0

More Info

www.blm.gov/co/crvfo

Q&A

- 20 minutes
- Comment period follows

Oral Comment Period

- We want this to be as fair as possible to all involved
- Ground rules:
 - Two minutes per person
 - No giving your time to someone else
 - Not an interactive session—testimony only
 - Please be respectful, especially of other speakers
 - Please refrain from reacting to speakers (i.e. applause, shouts)